

STUDY SESSION

**City Council
July 10, 2018**

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Jeff Boynton, City Manager

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SUBJECT: PROPOSED SECURITY CAMERA REBATE PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

In 2017, La Mirada experienced 143 burglaries, including 63 residential burglaries. Most residential burglary incidents occur during the day when no one is home. Security cameras can assist in the prevention of residential crime and provide assistance to the Sheriff's Department with video recordings of suspects committing crimes.

Earlier this year, a resident requested the City consider partnering with Ring.com (Ring) to offer a rebate to residents who purchase home security products from the company. In response to the request, staff conducted research on the implementation of the Ring rebate program as well as a general rebate program for security systems.

FINDINGS

Staff was unable to locate a city that offers a general rebate program for security systems. It is assumed that this type of program would require residents to visit City Hall, complete a rebate application, and provide proof of purchase and installation in the form of a receipt or monthly contract dated after the adoption of the program. City staff would then visit the applicant's residence to ensure the installation and functionality of the system. Following the verification, a check would need to be processed and mailed to the applicant. Staff would also need to keep a database of residents receiving rebates to ensure there were no duplicates. This approach would be highly staff intensive.

An alternative would be to work with an existing security company, like Ring, that partners with cities to provide a rebate program. The cities of Commerce, Rancho Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, Temple City, La Canada Flintridge, and Arcadia participate in the Ring rebate program. Attachment "A" is the promotional flyer from La Canada Flintridge's program which ran in December 2017.

As part of the program, Ring provides a \$50 rebate toward the purchase of its doorbell camera or other Ring security camera product, along with a \$50 rebate from the participating city, resulting in a discount to residents of up to \$100. Cities can limit the program to one unit per household in order to expand the discount to as many residents as possible. For example, if a city allocates \$10,000 to the program, 200 homes in the city could potentially benefit from a doorbell or other Ring camera security system.

Residents order their products from the company's website, www.ring.com, and the product is shipped shortly thereafter. Ring uses a code based on the customers' ZIP code to purchase a device. Ring initially subsidizes the entire \$100 discount so residents don't have to visit the City for an additional discount. Ring then invoices the City at the end of the program and provides information pertaining to the residents who received a rebate and their addresses to recover the additional \$50 discounted by the City.

The Ring products are comparable to security products offered by other companies. With the full rebate, prices range from \$99 for a spotlight camera to \$149 for a doorbell camera. Residents have the option of installing the equipment themselves or hiring someone to install the equipment for them.

Staff spoke with representatives of La Canada Flintridge and Rancho Palos Verdes regarding their partnerships and rebate programs with Ring. They indicated the program was received very well by their residents and their interactions with Ring were positive. Staff has also reviewed the service agreements between Ring and the cities of La Canada Flintridge and Rancho Palos Verdes.

After comparing the program offered by Ring to a general rebate program, staff recommends the City partner with Ring. The Ring program is simple for residents to access. Residents receive their rebate when the items are purchased and there is no requirement to submit receipts to City Hall. Additionally, there is no need for City staff to inspect their property following the purchase and installation.

The City and residents can benefit from the proposed rebate program. In addition to the video recordings, the technology allows residents to be alerted before a burglary occurs. The presence of a security system on residential properties often serves as a deterrent for thieves. In 2015, the Los Angeles Police Department subsidized Ring video doorbells in Wilshire Park and it was reported that the neighborhood saw a 55 percent reduction in residential burglaries after six months.

This item was previously discussed at the City Council's annual retreat in May 2018.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended the City Council review and discuss the proposed security camera rebate program.

With Ring, you're Always Home.

Starting Friday, December 1st, 2017, residents of the City of La Cañada Flintridge can contact lcfl@ring.com with their shipping address to receive the discount code information.

Ring Home Security Products



Video Doorbell 2

Normally \$199
Subsidy Price \$99

Rechargeable battery pack and convenience that works on any home.

Features

Motion Detection
1080p HD Video
Night Vision
Rechargeable Battery Pack
Easy Install

Warranty

1 year on parts
Lifetime purchase protection



Video Doorbell Pro

Normally \$249
Subsidy Price \$149

Ultra slim design with advanced features. Requires an existing hardwired doorbell.

Features

Advanced Motion Detection
1080p HD Video
Night Vision
Optional Cloud Recording
Live View/ Video on Demand

Warranty

1 year on parts
Lifetime purchase protection



Floodlight Cam

Normally \$249
Subsidy Price \$149

HD security camera with floodlights and a siren alarm.

Features

Advanced Motion Detection
1080p HD Video
Night Vision
110 Decibel Siren Alarm
Two 3k Lumen LED Floodlights

Warranty

1 year on parts
Lifetime purchase protection



Spotlight Cam Wired

Normally \$199
Subsidy Price \$99

HD camera with two-way talk and spotlights, plugged-in for non-stop power and security.

Features

Advanced Motion Detection
1080p HD Video
Night Vision
110 Decibel Siren Alarm
LED Spotlight Strips

Warranty

1 year on parts
Lifetime purchase protection



Spotlight Cam Battery

Normally \$199
Subsidy Price \$99

HD camera with two-way talk, spotlights, and rechargeable battery pack.

Features

Motion Detection
1080p HD Video
Night Vision
110 Decibel Siren Alarm
LED Spotlight Strips

Warranty

1 year on parts
Lifetime purchase protection

\$100 off retail price for (1) device per household.

\$30 off retail price for additional devices up to (2) per household.

20% off retail price for accessories up to (3) per household.

We're here to help you 24/7.

Our US based customer associates are available anytime, day or night. Contact us at 855-688-7756 or go to ring.com/help



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